

# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



## Timeliness and Completeness of Criminal History Records in Arizona Fact Sheet

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

June 2011

### Arizona Computerized Criminal History Repository

As mandated by Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) §41-1750, Arizona criminal justice agencies submit arrest and subsequent case disposition information for all felony, sexual, aggravated domestic violence, and driving under the influence (DUI) offenses to the central state repository, called the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH). The Arizona Department of Public Safety provided ACCH data to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission in January 2011, which allows for an analysis of the timeliness and completeness of the records.

### Completeness of Arrest Counts and Case Dispositions Entered in the ACCH

A total of 472,210 arrest counts from calendar year (CY) 2009 were entered into the ACCH prior to January 1, 2011. A total of 310,341 (65.7 percent) arrest counts contained associated case disposition information by the end of CY 2010 (Table 1). Despite an overall increase of 5.3 percent from CY 2003 to CY 2009 in the total number of arrest counts entered into the ACCH by the end of the following calendar year, the total number of arrest counts has decreased by 7.3 percent from CY 2007 to CY 2009. The same trend is discovered for subsequent case disposition information. The number of arrest counts with associated case disposition information increased by 16.5 percent from CY 2003 to CY 2009, even with an 11.0 percent decrease in counts with case disposition information from CY 2007 to CY 2009. The percentage of arrest counts with associated case disposition information rose from 59.4 percent in CY 2003 to 68.4 percent in CY 2007 before falling to 65.7 percent in CY 2009.

**Table 1. Total Arrest Counts with Associated Case Disposition Information Entered in the ACCH\*, CY 2003-2009**

	Calendar Year of Arrest						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Arrest Counts Available in the ACCH	448,434	464,541	487,447	497,455	509,577	499,601	472,210
Arrest Counts With a Disposition in the ACCH	266,450	268,878	279,622	316,496	348,560	339,432	310,341
Percentage of Arrest Counts with Disposition Information	59.4%	57.9%	57.4%	63.6%	68.4%	67.9%	65.7%

\* Data includes only those arrest counts entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year. Disposition entry is counted only if the disposition is entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest.

**Table 2. Percentage of Arrest Counts with Associated Case Disposition Information\* by County, CY 2008-2009**

County	2008 Percentage	2009 Percentage	County	2008 Percentage	2009 Percentage
Apache	58.3%	76.1%	Mohave	65.1%	72.9%
Cochise	68.5%	76.0%	Navajo	54.1%	53.7%
Coconino	60.0%	47.5%	Pima	58.0%	60.1%
Gila	56.7%	63.3%	Pinal	66.8%	71.6%
Graham	62.6%	69.4%	Santa Cruz	74.6%	80.0%
Greenlee	84.9%	77.8%	Yavapai	78.5%	80.6%
La Paz	39.2%	37.3%	Yuma	81.6%	78.4%
Maricopa	71.6%	66.5%	Arizona	67.9%	65.7%

\* Data includes only those arrest counts and dispositions entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest.

County percentages for the number of arrest counts in CY 2009 with associated disposition information entered in the ACCH range from a low of 37.3 percent to a high of 80.6 percent (Table 2). Nine counties recorded increases in the percentage of arrest counts with associated case disposition information from CY 2008 to CY 2009 while six counties experienced a decrease.

For annual comparison purposes, calendar year statistics provided in this fact sheet are standardized to include only arrest counts and associated case disposition information that were entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest year.

### Completeness of A.R.S. §41-1750 Offenses

The ten A.R.S. §41-1750 offenses most often submitted to the ACCH in CY 2009 are listed in Table 3 along with the percentage of CY 2009 arrest counts within each offense category that contain associated case disposition information entered by December 31, 2010. DUI offenses (including DUI, aggravated DUI, and extreme DUI) make up 31.4 percent of all of the statutorily mandated arrest counts in the ACCH in CY 2009. The three DUI offenses have the three highest percentages for arrest counts containing associated case disposition information in CY 2009. Of the aggravated assault arrest counts entered into the ACCH, 67.4 percent contain associated case disposition information. The most frequently submitted drug offense arrest counts contain associated case disposition information for 59.0 to 66.5 percent of the arrest counts by offense type. Forgery arrest counts contained associated case disposition information in 58.9 percent of the arrest counts, and first degree failure to appear arrest counts had associated case disposition information present in 16.3 percent of the counts.

**Table 3. A.R.S. §41-1750 Arrest Offenses Most Often Submitted to the ACCH and the Percentage of Counts with Associated Case Disposition Information\*, CY 2009**

Arrest Offense Category	Percentage of A.R.S. 41-1750 Arrest Counts	Percentage of Arrest Counts Containing Associated Case Disposition Information
1. DUI	20.7%	75.8%
2. Marijuana Violation**	8.7%	66.5%
3. Drug Paraphernalia Violation**	8.6%	59.0%
4. Extreme DUI	6.1%	77.1%
5. Aggravated Assault**	4.9%	67.4%
6. Aggravated DUI	4.6%	68.7%
7. Dangerous Drug Violation**	4.3%	64.9%
8. Narcotic Drug Violation**	4.0%	63.8%
9. Forgery**	3.5%	58.9%
10. 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Failure to Appear**	2.8%	16.3%

\* Data includes arrest counts and dispositions in the ACCH by December 31, 2010.

\*\* Aggravated assault, drug, forgery and failure to appear offenses are for felonies only.

## Timeliness of Arrest Charges to ACCH

A.R.S. §41-1750 requires that law enforcement agencies submit arrest information to the Department of Public Safety within 10 days from the arrest date. The percentage of arrest counts entered into the ACCH within 10 days of the arrest date rose from 87.2 percent in CY 2003 to 90.0 percent in CY 2005 before falling to 86.6 percent in CY 2009 (Table 4). Of the A.R.S. §41-1750 arrest counts entered in the ACCH, the percentage of counts entered within 10 days ranged from 83.2 percent to 87.8 percent over the seven-year period.

The average number of days from arrest date to the date the arrest information was entered into the ACCH also varied over the seven-year period (Table 4). The average number of days from arrest to arrest entry into ACCH fell from 15.9 days in CY 2003 to 8.2 days in CY 2005. After CY 2005, the average number of days from arrest to arrest information being entered into ACCH increased to 17.6 days in CY 2009.

## Timeliness of Disposition Data from Arrest to Associated Case Disposition Completion

Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure, specifically Rule 8.2, requires that all court cases, excluding first degree homicide cases, reach final disposition within 180 days from the initial arraignment date. The percentage of arrest counts with associated case disposition information within 180 days fluctuated but decreased overall from 60.0 percent in CY 2003 to 55.5 percent in CY 2009 (Table 5). The percentage of A.R.S. §41-1750 arrest counts with final case disposition information within 180 days rose to 56.5 percent in CY 2007, and the percentage fell to 51.6 percent by CY 2009.

The average number of days from arrest to associated case disposition fluctuated over the entire time period, but decreased from 218.6 in CY 2003 to 215.7 in CY 2007 (Table 5). After CY 2007, the average number of days from arrest to associated case disposition rose to a seven-year high of 242.5 by CY 2009. Data in Table 5 include arrest counts and dispositions entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest, and for standardized measurement of the average number of days to disposition, missing dispositions beyond December 31 of the year following arrest were assigned case disposition completion dates of December 31 of the year following the year of arrest.

## Timeliness of Disposition Data Entry to ACCH

Over the seven-year period, improvement has been made in the timeliness of subsequent case disposition information entered into the ACCH (Table 7). The percentage of arrest counts with associated case disposition information entered within 40 days, pursuant to A.R.S. §41-1750, increased from 13.4 percent in CY 2003 to 76.6 percent in CY 2009. For A.R.S. §41-1750 arrest counts only, the percentage increased from 19.7 percent to 77.1 percent over the same period. The average number of days from case disposition to case disposition information entry into the ACCH decreased by 60.6 percent from 128.7 days in CY 2003 to 50.7 days in CY 2009.

**Table 4. Timeliness of Arrest Count Information\* from Arrest to Entry into the ACCH, CY 2003-2009**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<i>Percentage of A.R.S. §41-1750 Arrest Counts Entered within 10 Days</i>	86.4%	87.7%	87.8%	85.7%	87.2%	83.2%	85.0%
<i>Percentage of All Arrest Counts Entered within 10 Days</i>	87.2%	89.6%	90.0%	88.1%	89.1%	82.4%	86.6%
<i>Average Number of Days for Arrest Count Entry into ACCH</i>	15.9	9.9	8.2	11.1	13.4	20.0	17.6

\* Data includes only those arrest counts entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year.

**Table 5. Timeliness of Arrest Count Information\* from Arrest to Associated Case Disposition Completion, CY 2003-2009**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<i>Percentage of A.R.S. §41-1750 Arrest Counts with Disposition Information Submitted within 180 Days</i>	55.8%	54.3%	53.9%	54.6%	56.5%	56.2%	51.6%
<i>Percentage of All Arrest Counts with Disposition Information Submitted within 180 Days</i>	60.0%	57.9%	56.8%	57.9%	60.3%	59.3%	55.5%
<i>Average Number of Days from Arrest to Submission of Disposition Information**</i>	218.6	231.2	233.8	231.7	215.7	221.5	242.5

\* Data includes only those arrest counts and dispositions entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest, excluding all first degree homicide cases.

\*\* For the purposes of a standardized calculation of the average number of days from arrest to disposition completion, dispositions not finalized by the end of the following year were assigned a disposition completion date of December 31 of the year following the arrest.

## Electronic vs. Paper Disposition Submission to DPS

More efficient methods of submitting case disposition information to the ACCH have emerged over the years, including electronic submission through the Arizona Disposition Reporting System (ADRS). Paper submissions

**Table 6. Percentage of Arrest Counts by Case Disposition Submission Type in the ACCH\*, CY 2006-2009**

	2006	2007	2008	2009
<i>Arrest Counts Electronically Submitted to DPS</i>	9.6%	7.9%	6.9%	6.7%
<i>Arrest Counts Submitted Electronically through ADRS</i>	0.0%	13.2%	16.5%	15.7%
<i>Arrest Counts Submitted via Paper Submission</i>	90.3%	78.9%	76.6%	77.6%

\* Data includes only those arrest counts and dispositions entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the year of arrest.

of case disposition information have fallen from 90.3 percent of total submissions in CY 2006 to 77.6 percent of submissions in CY 2009 (Table 6). In turn, electronic submissions have increased from 9.6 percent in CY 2006 to 22.4 percent of all submissions in CY 2009.

**Table 7. Timeliness of Associated Case Disposition Information\* from Case Disposition Submission to Entry in the ACCH, CY 2003-2009**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<i>Percentage of A.R.S. §41-1750 Arrest Counts with Dispositions Entered within 40 days</i>	19.7%	21.3%	37.6%	43.5%	54.3%	67.7%	77.1%
<i>Percentage of All Arrest Counts with Dispositions Entered within 40 days</i>	13.4%	15.7%	30.1%	47.6%	45.6%	67.5%	76.6%
<i>Average Number of Days for Disposition Entry into ACCH</i>	128.7	115.1	102.5	78.4	68.1	62.8	50.7

\* Data includes only those arrest counts with dispositions entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the year following the arrest. Arrest counts in the table were entered into the ACCH by December 31 of the following year.

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